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Joint Indonesian Statement on East Timor

We, the Indonesian organizations PIJAR (Jakarta), INFOHD (Amsterdam), PIPHAM (Jakarta), INFIGHT (Jakarta), and LEKHAT (Yogyakarta), wish to take the opportunity of this "Conference on the European Responsibility for East Timor", from September 30 to October 2, 1994, at Isserlohn, Germany, to issue the following statement.

1. The conflict of East Timor is an unnecesarry conflict involving Indonesia's New Order regime on the one hand, and the people of East Timor on the other. We deeply regret the civil war of 1975 and condemn the mutual atrocities which occurred. We condemn the actions of the Indonesian regime throughout the last eighteenth years, starting with military incursions in September 1975 and culminating in the December 7 invasion, the occupation, frequent mass killings, the continuing violations of human rights and the degradation of the dignity of the people and nation of East Timor. Since violence arises from the fact that the East Timorese people resist the occupation and annexation of their country, any concern on human rights in East Timor should in principle imply support for their right to self determination.

2. From the very beginning, the Indonesian people have been manipulated by the propaganda campaigns of the regime of President Soeharto leaving them largely unaware of the human and political tragedy taking place in our neighbour East Timor. This situation, however, has started to change since the eighties as the struggle for democratization of Indonesia began to gain momentum. We welcome and endorse the growing awareness of Indonesians -politicians, profesionals, NGO's, mass organizations and individuals- of the need to respect and support the legitimate right to self determination for the people of East Timor.

3. From the Indonesian point of view, it is the duty and obligation of Indonesian citizens to respect the spirit of our own national struggle for independence and our constitution which require us to respect freedom and independence of every nation. The occupation and colonization of East Timor by the Indonesian regime which only cause victims and great suffering on both sides, must be ended - just as the Dutch and the Portuguese colonialism in

parts of the archipelago had to be ended. It is our hope and belief that the struggle for the democratization of Indonesia will proceed hand in hand with the struggle for the independence of East Timor.

4. Any solution to the conflict of East Timor should be sought within the framework of international law and the United Nations mediation involving parties concerned, including representatives of the East Timorese themselves, and should lead to the enactment of the right to self determination through a referendum. In addition it should be recognized that peace in East Timor and respect for human rights and the right to self determination of East Timorese people are not only of great importance for peace in Indonesia, but also for peoples in the neighbouring countries of Asean. We consequently support the international demands to promote human rights conditions, to end the occupation and for open access to East Timor. The search for a solution to the East Timor conflict should not be monopolized by the governments concerned, but should also be open for people-to-people-contacts, i.e, for contributions from sectors of societies concerned.

5. We urge governments and organizations not to [continue] any form of foreign aid, trade and assistance, including economic aid and arms trade from West Europe, which could help perpetuate and support the occupation of East Timor.

Isserlohn, Germany, October, 1, 1994

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